

December 9, 2002

**ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES FOR A ONE-TIME COURSE OF DENTAL CARE FOR
CERTAIN HOMELESS AND OTHER ENROLLED VETERANS**

1. PURPOSE: This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive provides eligibility guidelines for a one-time course of dental care for certain veterans as established by Public Law 107-95, The Homeless Veterans Comprehensive Assistance Act of 2001.

2. BACKGROUND: Public Law 107-95, the Homeless Veterans Comprehensive Assistance Act of 2001, added Section 2062 to Title 38, United States Code (U.S.C.), that establishes authority for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to provide limited outpatient dental benefits to certain veterans.

3. POLICY

a. In accordance with Section 2062, VHA health care facilities shall provide outpatient dental services and treatment considered medically necessary to veterans described in paragraph b below. Dental services and treatment shall be considered medically necessary if they are:

(1) Necessary for the veteran to successfully gain or regain employment; or

(2) Necessary to alleviate pain or treat moderate, severe, or severe and complicated gingival and periodontal pathology.

b. A veteran is eligible for such medically necessary outpatient dental services and treatment if:

(1) The veteran is enrolled in VA's health care system; and

(2) The veteran is receiving care (directly or by contract) for a period of 60 consecutive days in any of the following settings:

(a) A VA domiciliary;

(b) A therapeutic residence operated in connection with a compensated work therapy program;

(c) A community residential care home if VA coordinated the placement;

(d) A community based resident treatment program serving homeless veterans under the Health Care for Homeless Veterans (HCHV) Program.

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(e) A setting operated by a provider to whom VA provides grant and per diem funds under VA's Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program.

(f) Dental benefits provided under Section 2062 shall be furnished on a one-time course of dental care that is provided in the same manner as the dental benefits provided to a veteran newly discharged from military service.

4. ACTION: The medical facility Director is responsible for ensuring that:

a. The above policy is accomplished.

b. Veterans referred for dental care under this program are enrolled in the VA Health Care System.

c. The Veterans Homeless Coordinator at each VA medical facility is designated as the point of contact to verify that veterans are receiving care in an eligible setting for at least 60 consecutive days.

d. The Dental Service at each facility will record its dental workload data for homeless veterans participating in the Program under the Class VI dental outpatient category.

5. REFERENCE: Public Law 107-95; Title 38 U.S.C., Sections 1712(a)(1)(H) and 2062.

6. FOLLOW-UP RESPONSIBILITY: The Chief Business Office (163) is responsible for the content of this directive.

7. RESCISSION: This VHA Directive will expire December 31, 2007.

Robert H. Roswell, M.D.,
Under Secretary for Health

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